

# Historical tour held Sunday in North Runnels area

The Texas Legislature unanimously adopted resolutions in 1935, the year before

the Texas Centennial, urging all the schools—from elementary grades up—to give more attention to essential facts of Texas history and historical places.

Generally speaking, that is being done in Runnels County.

On Sunday, April 25, Junior Historians of Ballinger Junior High School and Ballinger High School, under the sponsorship of Weldon Brevard, Junior High School Principal, and Robert Wilson, were guests of the Runnels County Historical Commission when a tour of historical places and dedication ceremonies were held in the northern part of the county. Tour chairmen were Neuman Smith and Arnold Lincoln.

The first stop was at the Crews townsite where the first store was built in 1892 by two men, Wise and Braughton, and the post office was established June 28, 1892. The foundations of several rock buildings is all that is left.

Rankin Pace, chairman of the County Historical Commission was in charge of the dedication of a historical marker at Counts Cemetery. Frances and Shiela Allen, former residents of that area, read the inscription on the marker. Earliest known interment was November 30, 1880.

Mrs. Henry Bright read the inscription on the marker—"Cotton Production in Runnels County." In 1884, R. F. Counts planted an experimental cotton field in a valley near the historical marker site. This was the Ranger

Peak & Ranger Campsite, the third stop for the tourists.

The fourth stop was at the Content Townsite that was founded in 1881 by Dan W. Hale and Michael Bright. The post office was established in 1884. The first gin in Runnels County was in Content and the rock building is still standing. The first lady doctor in Runnels County was in Content, and she practiced medicine in Content until 1903. The house that she lived in is in perfect repair.

Several people at Content recalled days of Dr. (lady) Allen. One stalwart, healthy gentleman spoke up and recalled the snowy night that Dr. Allen delivered him. The Allen sisters and Mrs. Bright also gave accounts of past history.

The fifth stop was at the Blue Gap post office, established February 14, 1878, which was one of the first post offices in Runnels County. The one-room log structure has hand hewn cedar rafters. The building also served as a stop on the Round Rock to Buffalo Gap Stage Coach route for many years.

Neuman Smith gave narrations at each stop. Mrs. Henry Bright related stories of the past in Content.

Refreshments were served at Content.

This part of Runnels County has the distinction this year not only of honoring the Bicentennial birthday but to it goes the honor of having preserved the typical hereditary atmosphere of beauty, legendry and friendliness brought to Runnels County by its early settlers.